



# State of Louisiana

## Department of Environmental Quality



M.J. "Mike" Foster  
Governor

L. Hall Bohlinger  
Secretary

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**Contact:** Rodney Mallett  
Teri Lanoue  
**Telephone:** 225-219-3964  
225.219.3556

### Environmental News

#### **EPA Agrees with DEQ on Ozone Designations**

The United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) on Thursday stated it agreed with the state's suggested boundaries for attainment and nonattainment areas for the national eight-hour ozone standard.

In a letter to Governor M.J. "Mike" Foster, Richard E. Greene, Regional Administrator for EPA's Region 6, said, "that based on the 2001-2003 ozone monitoring data collected by LDEQ, it appears likely that all areas of Louisiana except the five parish Baton Rouge area are demonstrating attainment with the eight-hour ozone standard. This is a very significant accomplishment for Louisiana."

DEQ Secretary Hall Bohlinger said he was pleased with the notification.

"The EPA has formally recognized our boundaries and designations for attainment and nonattainment areas," Bohlinger said. "We will continue to implement regulations for the one-hour standard and by doing that we will meet the eight-hour goals."

EPA's letter stems from recommendations submitted in July by DEQ for the eight-hour national standard for ground-level ozone. After studying the information and recommendations, EPA gave special notice to the New Orleans and Shreveport-Bossier areas for reaching attainment.

"Throughout the 2003 ozone season, LDEQ along with EPA tracked 2003 ozone monitoring data and its impact on the areas' 2001-2003 ozone levels," the letter stated. "We are pleased to concur with Louisiana that preliminary 2001-2003 ozone monitoring data indicate that the New Orleans area is attaining the eight-hour ozone standard. We want to specifically acknowledge the voluntary efforts in your state to improve the air quality, especially the efforts with early air quality planning in the Shreveport-Bossier area."